



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development
Press Release**

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**PATRICK ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES FUNDING TO SUPPORT
NEW HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

BOSTON – Friday, January 24, 2014 – In keeping with its commitment to invest locally to create growth and opportunity for all citizens, the Patrick Administration today announced that it will make \$600,000 in planning grants available to cities and towns across the Commonwealth to help support market rate and affordable housing production under a new program, Planning Assistance Toward Housing (PATH).

PATH continues the strategy of planning ahead for job and housing growth in partnership with local communities and will support Governor Patrick's first-in-the-nation goal of creating 10,000 multi-family housing units per year through 2020. The goal is particularly designed to promote multi-family development in cities and town centers, near transit options and well-connected to employment.

"If we want to produce reasonably priced homes providing residents with access to public transit to jobs and recreational activities, it starts with communities planning ahead for new housing production and growth," said Housing and Community Development Undersecretary Aaron Gornstein.

Activities eligible for funding will include locally-initiated planning for municipally-owned sites, changes to land use and zoning, and other strategies that directly contribute to housing production.

PATH will be administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and will replace the Priority Development Fund (PDF), a similar and highly successful planning program launched in 2004 and funded by MassHousing. Planning funded by PDF led to the creation of 19 of the 33 "smart growth districts" in the state, as well as up-zoning in 16 communities and site-specific planning in more than 50 other communities. Funding for PATH comes from an existing trust at DHCD created in 2008.

Improving the housing stock at all levels is a priority for the Patrick Administration. Along with creating new housing, the Administration has made significant investments in the Commonwealth's public housing stock, by preserving and improving the 46,000 housing units in the system through increased capital funding, increased operating subsidies and changes in management of those resources.

Since 2009, the Patrick Administration, working with the Legislature and Congress, has directed direct over \$700 million in federal and state tax credits and state housing program subsidies to projects that improve the state's affordable housing, create jobs and build stronger communities. These investments have generated more than 14,000 jobs and 10,000 homes.

In April, a Notice of Funding Availability with guidelines and an application form will be made available to communities interested in applying at www.mass.gov/dhcd.

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